

ON *ÆSTRELATA SANDWICHENSIS* Ridgw.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

In "Water Birds of North America," vol. ii, p. 395, I referred, with much doubt, to *Æstrelata hesitata* (Kuhl), a Petrel from the Sandwich Islands (No. 61259, U. S. Nat. Mus.; V. Knudsen, coll.), which appeared to agree better in its characters with that species than with any other, but whose characters differed in so many respects from those ascribed to *Æ. hesitata* that I was led to suggest its probable specific distinctness, and propose for it the name *Æ. sandwichensis*.

Through the kindness of Mr. George N. Lawrence I have been able to make a direct comparison between this specimen and the type of that gentleman's "*Procellaria meridionalis*," generally conceded to be the same as *P. hesitata* Kuhl, and have found them to be very distinct from one another, as the following comparative diagnoses will serve to show:

*Æ. hesitata*. White of the neck almost meeting behind (sometimes completely confluent); upper tail-coverts and basal half, or more, of tail white; middle rectrices broad and rounded at tips. Culmen, 1.20; depth of bill through base, .60; through angle, .52; through middle portion, .40; tarsus, 1.38; middle toe, 1.80; wing, 11.50; tail, 5.25, graduated for 2.00. *Hab.* Atlantic Ocean.

*Æ. sandwichensis*.\* White of neck confined to the anterior half (or less); upper tail-coverts dusky for exposed portion, but abruptly white beneath the surface; extreme base only of tail white; middle rectrices narrow, almost acuminate at tips. Culmen, 1.22; depth of bill at base, .57; through angle, .45; through middle portion, .40; tarsus, 1.35; middle toe, 1.55; wing, 11.70; tail, 5.80, graduated for 2.30. *Hab.* Pacific Ocean (vicinity of Sandwich Islands).

Additional differences which hold good, so far as comparison with the type of "*Procellaria meridionalis*" is concerned, are the following: The entire forehead is white, quite abruptly defined against the dusky of the crown, which reaches no further forward than on a line with the anterior angle of the eye. (In "*P. meridionalis*" the forehead is spotted with dusky medially quite to the base of the bill.) The bill is wholly deep black (in "*meridionalis*" the terminal half has a decidedly horn-whitish or glaucous cast). The sides are sparsely marked with rather broad, irregular, or zigzag bars of slate color (immaculate white in "*meridionalis*").

There are so many points of discrepancy between the *Procellaria meridionalis* of Lawrence and *P. hesitata* Kuhl, as described and figured

\* *Æstrelata sandwichensis* RIDGW., in Water B. N. Am. ii. 1884, 395 (in text).

by various authors, that it may possibly prove to be a distinct species; but in the absence of an opportunity for comparing it with specimens of the latter I refrain from expressing an opinion in the matter.

ADDITIONAL NOTE.—Since the above was submitted for publication the writer has examined a good series of *A. hirsitata*, and has been thereby led to adopt the generally accepted view of the specific identity of this species and *Procellaria meridionalis* Lawr. The latter represents a special phase, but whether an individual variation or dependent on difference of age cannot at present be determined. The series in question removes all possible doubt as to the status of *A. sandwichensis*, but I now have a suspicion that the latter is the same as *A. phaeopygia* Salv. (Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., vol. ix, part ix, May, 1876, p. 507, pl. 88, fig. 1), from the Galapagos. At any rate, the two should be carefully compared.